

How to get
Involved in the
HSCB!

Join a workgroup.

Where do you want
to make a
difference?

- Transportation
- Foster care, Adoption, Kinship Services
- Substance Abuse
- Homelessness
- Healthy Youth
- Suicide Prevention
- Hunger
- Older Adults
- Young Children
- Community Data

Contact

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Livingston HSCB

HUMAN SERVICES COLLABORATIVE BODY

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2015

What's New in Livingston?

The ALICE Report

ALICE is an acronym for “**Asset-Limited, Income-Constrained, Employed**”, used to describe individuals who are working hard every day but struggling to afford the high cost of living in Livingston County. According to a new report from Rutgers University, which was commissioned by United Way organizations throughout Michigan, 20% of local households or 13,437 families are in this situation -

working in jobs that provide valuable services which we all need, in high growth areas such as healthcare, personal services, childcare, and other service-oriented positions – but earning below the level needed to be financially stable in Livingston County. The ALICE Report gives us a picture of our post-recession environment; highlights some of the challenges in the years ahead; and provides a much more accurate measure of financial hardship in this new economy.

For more information:

Who is ALICE?



Visit Livingston County United Way's website at www.lcunitedway.org

**Stay Tuned for more
County Assessment Results**

Collaboration Works

Prisoner Reentry of Livingston County is fortunate to report on a new partnership formed with Second Chance Support Network in a new Second Chance venture called the Job Readiness Placement (JRP) Program. The objective of this program is to provide group and one-on-one mentoring to individuals, while promoting job skills training and etiquette related to employment. Upon successful completion of this six week program, participants will be directly connected to employment with a local company that will willingly hire them, accompanied by a reference and advocacy through

the Second Chance Support Network JRP Program.

Second Chance has taken the lead in a very critical aspect of successful reentry for those on parole, pairing job training and job placement with advocacy and mentorship in the community. Employment is a key indicator of successful integration back into society for those who have been incarcerated, yet numerous barriers exist when seeking employment. Some studies estimate as many as 40% of employers are unwilling to hire someone with a felony conviction and, depending on the type of conviction, this figure can go as high as 90%

of employers! Second Chance is working to meet a critical need. We hope that as the program progresses, its participants, and the community will both benefit, so that as we welcome participants back to the community, we also successfully transition them to be productive members as well. In addition, we hope that more community involvement will take place, and local companies will partner with the program when looking to hire.

Interested in learning more, call Prisoner Reentry of Livingston County at 517-546-7088.





Winter Tips

Need help paying your utility bills this winter?

Both Consumers Energy and DTE offer assistance programs that can help. Check them out.

Consumers
(800) 477-5050

DTE
(800) 477-4747

Need help with housing?

Start with the Local HARA (Housing Assessment and Resource Agency),

OLHSA
(517)546-8500

Need a ride?

Call LETS
(517)546-6600



HSCB Workgroups Hard at Work

The Homeless Continuum of Care held their Annual Homeless Awareness Week Events the week of November 16th-22nd. The following events were held to raise awareness and support our local families during the winter months:

- ◇ The Silhouettes were on display on the Court House Lawn. Each one represents a Livingston County resident that goes homeless each night. The youth from The Connection were out with the Silhouettes sharing what it is like
- ◇ The Howell Opera house offered a wonderful Art Show of local art students whose theme was homelessness. It was very impactful.
- ◇ The Howell Theatre showed the movie "The Fisher King" which is the story of a homeless man.
- ◇ Hat and mitten drive was held.
- ◇ A donation drive to support folks with emergency housing needs over the winter months took place.

to be homeless.

The events ran throughout the week and really helped raise awareness about the challenges this population faces.

Thank you to all who made this possible!



Local Donations at Work

Children who are homeless often have a number of challenges that can cause disruptions to their education. To combat these disruptions, the Livingston Educational Service Agency (LESA) developed The Education Project. This project strives to support the children's needs and reduce the impact of homelessness. Throughout the school year, students considered McKinney-Vento eligible receive free and reduced breakfast and lunch. This means that students have the opportunity to eat at least two meals five days a week. Affording food can be very

costly especially for a family with a limited income.

Every winter break, The Education Project has a snack pack donation drive to help supplement the meals students would typically be provided at school. The donation drive will begin **December 1st and run through December 12th**. The snack packs will be distributed to each student eligible for McKinney-Vento services the week of December 15th.

Thanks to the overwhelming support of the community nearly 230 students received snack packs last year and 20 emergency food kits were given out to families in need of food. Snack pack items include but are not limited to pudding, crackers, snack size chips/pretzels, granola bars, mini cereal boxes, ramen noodles, oatmeal, popcorn, juice boxes, etc. Without the support of the community the snack packs would not happen. It is greatly appreciated by the families, students, The Education Project, and LESA.

A box will be located in the front of LESA beginning December 1st. Food items may be dropped off between the hours of 8am and 4:30pm. Thank you so much for your support!

Livingston County Community Taking Action

The Community Concludes Phase 2 of MAPP

Livingston County Department of Public Health is embarking on a Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnership (MAPP) process to develop a Community Health Assessment and a Community Health Improvement Plan.

Phase 2: Visioning of the MAPP process involved the creation of a communitywide vision and collection of community values. This collaborative process provided the opportunity for MAPP Team members to engage in and increase their understanding of the MAPP process.

Representing all sectors of the county and community, the MAPP Team created a community vision through an agreed understanding of what a healthy community looks like. The community vision offers a picture of the long-term outcomes of the MAPP process and what will be achieved when the goals and strategies are implemented. In addition, the MAPP Team developed the community's values that represent the guiding principles and behaviors envisioned for our community. These values are meant to help the community reach their vision.

A community vision and seven community values were developed at the completion of Phase 2.

COMMUNITY VISION STATEMENT

A safe, healthy, educated, and supportive community in which all individuals can attain optimal physical, cultural, social, mental, and spiritual health.

COMMUNITY VALUES

- ◆ Collaboration
- ◆ Commitment/Accountability
- ◆ Communication and Education of Health/Wellness
- ◆ Compassion
- ◆ Inclusion
- ◆ Respect
- ◆ Responsive

**Phase Three
will begin on
January 15th.**

STAY
TUNED!



Livingston Stories of Hope

Daniel Gillen, an individual who is a part of Livingston Prisoner Reentry, Celebrate Recovery, Genesis, Second Chance Support Network and many other community agencies, recently participated in the Detroit Half Marathon. This is an international event with competitors from all over the world.

In the last six months since his return to the community Daniel has worked to rebuild his

life and obtain a healthy lifestyle. Daniel took up running for his health and enjoyment and trained for a half marathon, which eventually led him to enter the Detroit half Marathon.

After receiving permissions, and finding transportation, he competed in the run, placing 4th in his division, and in the top 4% overall. This is a phenomenal accomplishment, and we are very proud of his dedication and success!

Daniel would like to add "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens

me" (Phil. 4:13). Additionally he would like to reference Lao Tzu, whose words inspired him "The journey of a thousand miles begins with one step."





Livingston County Human Services Collaborative Body

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*Ensuring a system of support for
members of our community.*

What is the Purpose of the Livingston County HSCB?

The Livingston HSCB started in 1989 and was officially recognized as the county Multi-Purpose Collaborative Body by the state and county Board of Commissioners in 1995. Now, referred to as a Community Collaborative by the state, the HSCB is comprised of 26 appointed members that work together to coordinate health and human services across systems. The HSCB also:

- Develops strategies and programs to meet current and future needs
- Fiscally manages state-funded collaborative initiatives
- Monitors the effectiveness and efficiency of collaborative projects

The HSCB does this work through established committees and workgroups which have specific goals and objectives to complete. The HSCB and most workgroups meet monthly and consist of representatives from public and nonprofit organizations, business, and interested residents of the county. To learn about the work of the HSCB, contact Anne Rennie at arennie@cmhliv.org.

Upcoming Events in Livingston

*"Individually, we are one drop.
Together, we are an ocean."*

Christmas at Cornerstone—Please join us for this Free event. The 3rd Annual Dinner and Christmas Concert is December 13th. Doors open at 4:30. Call 810-494-4059 for reservations.

8th Annual Livingston County Community Connect. Saturday, February 7th, 2015. Held at Parker Middle School at 400 Wright Road in Howell. Event runs from 9-2. For more information, Contact 211.

OLHSA's 25th Annual Walk for Warmth will be held Saturday, February 21st at the Hartland Educational Service Center. Registration begins at 8:30 am. For more information visit olhsa.org.

Livingston County Catholic Charities will be celebrating their 30th Anniversary with a "*Salute to the Stars and Celebrity Dance Competition*". The Event will begin with a Mass at St. Joseph Church in Howell and will follow with a dinner and celebration at the Johnson Center at Cleary University. For more information, call Julie at 517-545-5944.

Area Agency On Aging 1-B is offering some new training opportunities for those working with older adults.

1. Age Sensitivity Training helps individuals understand the challenges our older adults experience and ways to age successfully. Please contact Andrea at amulheisen@aaa1b.com for more information.
2. Expansion of two evidenced based wellness programs for older adults is being proposed. A Matter of Balance is a fall prevention program and Diabetes—PATH is a diabetes management program. Please contact Kristin at kwilson@aaa1b.com for more information.

**Have a Safe, Happy and Healthy Holiday Season!
See you in 2015!**